THE GENERIC NAMES CERCOMYS AND PROECHIMYS.

In a paper published in 1899 Dr. J. A. Allen* reviewed the generic names *Echimys* and *Loncheres*, and after showing that the name *Echimys* is inapplicable to the group containing *Echimys cayennensis* and other species he proposed *Proechimys*, instead, with *Echimys trinitatis* as type. He seems, however, to have overlooked the genus *Cercomys* F. Cuvier,† which dates from 1829. The original description of *Cercomys* is accompanied by a plate illustration of an animal of the type currently recognized as *Proechimys;* but more reliable evidence of the identity of these genera is afforded in the illustrations of cranial characters published by Cuvier‡ in contrasting *Cercomys* with other genera in 1832. The skull figured is that of a young individual with the 3d upper molar not yet in place. In the lateral view the angular process is missing, doubtless having been broken off, and the imperfect nasals are indicated by a dotted line. The molariform teeth are well shown, and the resemblance to *Proechimys trinitatus* at the same stage of development is very striking.

The similarity of *Cercomys* and a spiny rat of this group in cranial characters was noted by Gunther,§ who in describing *Echimys brevicauda*, says: "The *skull* and *dentition* appear to differ scarcely from those of *Cercomys cunicularius* and *Echimys cayennensis*." Careful comparison of museum material with the descriptions and illustrations of F. Cuvier convinces me that *Cercomys cunicularius* and *Proechimys trinitatis* are congeneric, and that *Cercomys* should replace *Proechimys* as the generic name at least for the species having three enamel islands in the crowns of the first and second upper molars. In many forms this number of enamel islands is normally present in these teeth and has apparently become a fixed character while the number in the other molariform teeth is somewhat variable. —*E. A. Goldman.*

FOSSIL CROCODILES FROM THE CANAL ZONE.

The section of Vertebrate Paleontology of the U. S. National Museum has recently received from Mr. D. F. MacDonald, geologist for the Panama Canal Commission, two fossil crocodilians found in the canal excavations. Although fragmentary they are of interest as being the first fossil reptilian remains reported from this region. One specimen is from the Culebra formation, opposite Culebra, the other from the Gatun formation, Gatun Locks. Both represent crocodiles of robust proportions. —*C. W. Gilmore.*

* Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XII, pp. 257–264.

† Hist. Nat. Mamm., VI, livr. LX, pl. (Cercomys du Brésil) with 2 pp. text, Sept. 1829.

‡ Nouv. Ann. Mus. Hist. Nat., Paris, I, 1832, pp. 449–452, pls. 18 fig. 1, 19 figs. 1–2.

§ Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1876, p. 749.